

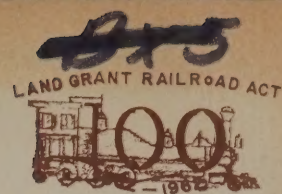
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1962

ANNIVERSARY YEAR

FOR

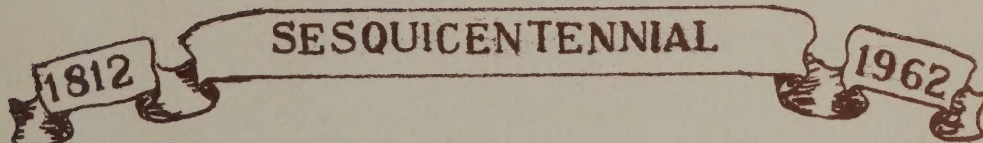
PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Route		
1	SD	non 6/25
2	ASD	non 6/25
3	I&E	RH 6-26
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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"Now, therefore, I, John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the year 1962 as Homestead Centennial year.

"I call upon the governors of the states, mayors of cities, and other public officials, as well as other persons, organizations, and groups, particularly in states most directly affected by the Homestead Act, to observe such centennial by appropriate celebrations and ceremonies.

"I request the Department of the Interior to plan and participate in appropriate commemorative activities recognizing the centennial of the enactment of the Homestead Act and the sesquicentennial of the establishment of the General Land Office; and I also request the Department of the Interior and other Federal agencies to cooperate fully with state and local governments during 1962 in commemorating these events."

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Washington, D. C.---Following the recent proclamation of President John F. Kennedy, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced a year-long program of recognition of important historic legislation that aided directly in the settlement and development of the nation in the past 150 years. Said the Secretary: "We welcome the interest of all the general public during 1962, when we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our Federal system of public land management and other important land anniversaries."

Washington, D.C.---"This is an historic year," said Karl S. Landstrom, National Director of the Bureau of Land Management, "and we can note with considerable pride, the important Congressional legislation during the past century-and-a-half that made possible the settlement, development, conservation, and sound administration of the public lands of the nation."

Denver---Lowell M. Puckett, Colorado State Bureau of Land Management Director, said: "Colorado is not to be outdone in adding history to the already history-filled year of 1962. It was on June 2, 1862--just 100 years ago--that the first public land office was opened in Colorado, at Golden City."

1819

On February 24, the Senate ratified the Adams-Onís Treaty, which established the boundary between the U.S. and Spanish territory. The line ran along the Arkansas River in Southern Colorado.

1822

The first wagon trains crossed Colorado Territory, traveling the Santa Fe Trail from Missouri.

1830

On May 29, the Pre-emption Act was passed. This authorized settlers who had developed and improved land on the public domain to purchase as many as 160 acres at \$1.25 an acre. Although this act was passed as a temporary measure to satisfy the West's demand for cheap land, it was renewed at regular intervals and remained in effect until June of 1842.

1841

On September 4, the Distribution Pre-emption Act was passed. This legislation authorized settlers to stake claims on surveyed lands and to purchase, at the minimum price of \$1.25 an acre, up to 160 acres of land. The distribution features of the act, which recognized that actual settlement on the land took priority over revenue, authorized the grant of 500,000 acres to each new state for construction of internal improvements. Ten per cent of land sales was to be returned to the states in which the sales took place and the remainder--less administrative costs--was to be divided among the rest of the states according to their representation in Congress.

1843

The Mexican Government, in order to encourage settlement on its frontiers, inaugurated a policy of making huge land grants to individuals who promised to found towns and develop natural resources. The Mexican method of granting land differs widely from the U.S. method. The Mexican official making the mammoth Conejos Grant described it this way in his records: "I took them (those receiving the land) by the hand and.....led them over the tract and granted them the land. They plucked up grass, cast stones, and exclaimed in voices of gladness, saying 'long live the sovereignty of our Mexican Nation,' and took possession of said tract quietly and peaceably without any opposition."

1843
(Continued)

Today, titles to thousands of acres of land in Southern Colorado can be traced to these Mexican grants, even though the war with Mexico resulted in the land changing ownership before it could be permanently settled.

1848

In the treaty of peace ending the war with Mexico, all of Western and Southern Colorado came under government of the U.S. Congress had to determine the validity of the huge Mexican land grants. It ratified the full areas of three grants, reduced the size of two, and finally dismissed one.

1849

On March 3, upon the recommendation of Treasury Secretary Robert J. Walker, the Department of the Interior was established--the sixth department with cabinet status. Originally called the Home Department, it brought under a single head the Office of the Census, the Office of Indian Affairs, and the General Land Office.

1851

The town of San Luis--the first permanent settlement in Colorado--was begun on the Culebra River in Costilla County by humble farmers who were especially industrious in building a system of ditches to irrigate their crops. More than 40 irrigating ditches in the San Luis Valley have priority dates earlier than any others in Colorado.

1854

The Kansas and Nebraska Territories were organized, including all of Eastern Colorado.

1858

On July 6, William Green Russell, heading a band of 13 prospectors who had nothing but bad luck in seeking gold on Ralston Creek (near Arvada), moved up the South Platte. There, eight miles above the mouth of Cherry Creek, they discovered a "worthy placer" deposit that yielded \$10 a day for each man. This was the beginning of the famed Colorado Gold Rush.

1858
(Continued)

As gold seekers continued to flock into the area, it was decided that a town should be organized. At a mass meeting October 30, the name "Auraria" was chosen for the town site situated in the angle formed by Cherry Creek and the South Platte (West Denver).

On November 16, a company of pioneers from Kansas organized a company, headed by William Larimer, and chose a town site across Cherry Creek. The town was to be named after John W. Denver, then the territorial governor of Kansas.

1859

On April 23, the state's first newspaper--the Rocky Mountain News--began publication; on May 6, John H. Gregory discovered the first gold vein near Central City; and on October 3, the first school in the territory was opened in Denver on 12th Street between Larimer and Market.

1861

On February 28, Congress created the Territory of Colorado, and three months later, Colonel William Gilpin, who was chosen by President Lincoln to be the first territorial governor, arrived in Denver. On June 12, the Supreme Court for the Colorado Territory was organized, and on September 9, the first General Assembly convened.

1862

On May 20, the Homestead Act finally passed the Congress, after being vetoed two years earlier by President Buchanan. It offered to any citizen who was head of a family and over 21 years of age, 160 acres of public domain land after five years of continuous residence and payment of a registration fee of about \$30. An alternative of the act provided that the land could be acquired after six months residence for \$1.25 an acre. These homesteads were exempt from attachment for debt.

On June 2, the first general land office in the Colorado Territory was established by executive order in Golden City. Two year later, it was transferred to Denver, where it has been in continuous operation for 98 years.

On July 1, Congress passed the Transcontinental Railroad Acts, authorizing a central transcontinental railroad with rights of way and ten alternate sections per mile of public domain granted on both sides of the railway.

1862
(Continued)

On July 2, the Land Grant Colleges and Universities Act--commonly known as the Morrill Act--was passed. It provided that each loyal state would receive 30,000 acres of public domain land for each Senator and Representative then in Congress. The land granted was to be used for the establishment and support of at least one agricultural college. Sixty nine land-grant colleges have been established under the provisions of the act, including Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

1863

Early this year, the first telegraph line reached Denver, and John Tennessee, an Italian rancher, settled on and later homesteaded a ranch on the Arkansas River, and brought the first cattle to that country.

On October 6, the Golden City Land Office received the first Homestead Application from Peter Erskine for 160 acres of land near Denver.

1864

On March 21, a Homestead Bonus Act was passed, providing 160 acres of public domain land to each soldier having at least two years of service. One year's residence on the land was required to qualify for patent.

On July 2, a second Transcontinental Railroad Act passed, doubling the land grants and giving the government a second mortgage instead of a first on railroad property. The Northern Pacific Railroad, chartered by Congress this same year, was given 20 sections per mile in the states and 40 sections per mile in the Territories.

On September 14, the Colorado Seminary (later the University of Denver), began operation. This same year, the Belmont silver vein was discovered near Georgetown. This and other rich findings caused Georgetown and Silver Plume to boom.

On November 29, the "Hundred Days Men"--a group of volunteers recruited in the Colorado Territory to fight off the marauding Arapahoes and Cheyennes, who were threatening to close off land and mineral development--caught the unsuspecting Indians encamped in Eastern Colorado along Sand Creek. The troops, led by Colonel Chivington--the "Fighting Parson"--slaughtered the Indians, including squaws and children. This encounter is known in Colorado history as the "Sand Creek Massacre."

1866

On June 21, Congress extended the Homestead Act to public lands in the Confederate states. This act was repealed in 1872, after most of the lands had been distributed.

This same year, mineral lands on the public domain were opened to occupation.

1868

On September 1, the Denver Land Office issued the first final Homestead Certificate in Colorado to Isaac C. McBroom for 162.48 acres of land near Denver.

That same month, on the 17th, 50 experienced Indian fighters who were encamped on Aricaree River a few miles southwest of Wray, were attacked by 1,000 marauding Indian braves. The scouts took up a defensive position on a small Island in the center of the river. For nine days, a fierce battle raged until the Indians finally fled as the Cavalry approached. The battle, probably the most famous in Colorado history, has been named the Battle of Beecher Island in honor of a Lieutenant Beecher, who was killed the first day of fighting.

1869

On September 1, the first final homestead patent, based upon residence and cultivation of the land, was presented to Andrew McPhetus for 160 acres of land located in Jefferson County.

1870

When the first transcontinental railroad skipped Denver and took the easier route across the Rockies through Wyoming, Denver's economy began to fizzle, its population began to dwindle, and the land market dipped badly. A group of desperate businessmen, in an effort to save the city, formed the Board of Trade, the main purpose of which was to build a railroad--the Denver Pacific--from Denver to Cheyenne. The Board's slogan was "Pay or Perish," and the people paid--some with cash, some with donated labor, and others with donated material. On June 24, the first train from Cheyenne pulled into Denver, and within two months, on August 16, a second railroad--the Kansas Pacific--also reached Denver. This was also the year that the town of Greeley put its roots down, the year that General William Palmer launched the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, and the year that the sleepy little town of Pueblo began to flourish.

On July 9, Congress authorized a survey of mineral lands to be sold at \$2.50 per acre. An amendment later raised the price of land with lodes to \$5 an acre and reduced iron areas to the usual \$1.25.

1871

Land grants to railroad companies were discontinued.

In October, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad had reached the vicinity of Pike's Peak, and here General Palmer chose a town site and laid out the beautiful city of Colorado Springs. Horse-drawn street cars also appeared on Denver streets for the first time, and the state prison at Canon City received its first prisoners.

1872

Yellowstone National Park was created, the first great national reservation.

1873

On March 3, Congress passed the Timber Culture Act, which authorized any person who kept 40 acres of timber land in good condition to acquire title to 160 additional acres. Five years later, the minimum tree-growing requirements were reduced from 40 to 10 acres.

By the Treaty of 1868, the greater part of the San Juan country on the Western Slope had been set aside as a Ute Indian Reservation, but in the early 70s, White men discovered gold and silver veins in the area. They demanded that the Indians be removed and that the region be thrown open to prospecting. The Ute Tribal Council met this year and signed the Brunot Treaty, thereby giving up their rights to the San Juan Mountains in return for yearly grants of money and goods from the government. The area immediately boomed and such cities as Lake City, Silverton, and Ouray sprang up.

The Federal Government stopped coining silver dollars. This action was called "The Crime of 1873" by Western mining men. The silver dollar was restored five years later by the Bland-Allison Act.

1876

On August 1, Colorado was admitted to statehood.

1877

On March 3, the Desert Land Act allowed individuals to acquire 640 acres at 25 cents an acre, provided the land became irrigated within a period of three years.

This was the year of the big boom in ore-rich Leadville and the year that the University of Colorado opened its doors to students.

1878

On June 3, the Timber Cutting Act was passed. This permitted settlers and miners to cut timber free of charge on the public domain, provided the material was for their own use.

1879

On March 3, the U.S. Geological Survey was established, with Clarence King as its first director.

Early in 1878, Nathan Meeker, one of the principal founders of the town of Greeley (Union Colony), took over as Indian agent for the Northern Ute Indians on the White River Reservation. Meeker tried to educate the Indians with "schools, plows, and barbed wire fences," but he succeeded only in enraging them. Finally, in the summer of '79, when he plowed under their horse-race track, the Indians revolted and left the reservation, burning houses on the Yampa River and setting fires to forests. Finally, in disillusionment and in danger, Meeker asked for military protection.

A few days later, Major Thornburgh was dispatched from Fort Steele in Southern Wyoming to the White River Agency. The Indians ambushed the troops at Mill Creek, killing the Major and thirteen of his soldiers. In the fierce fighting that followed, several more soldiers and approximately 200 Army mules were killed.

Meanwhile, on September 29, the Indians, blaming Meeker for calling in the troops, attacked the Agency, killing Meeker and eleven other men, taking three women and two children captive, and burning and pillaging most of the Agency buildings.

This same year the first telephone system was established in Denver, and Colorado State University at Fort Collins registered its first student on September 1.

1881

Following the Meeker Massacre and the Battle of Thornburgh, White settlers increased their demand for the removal of the Utes from the Western Slope in order to make it safe for White settlement and exploitation.

Congress acquiesced this year, moving the Uncompaghre and White River Utes to the Uintah Reservation in Utah and the Southern Utes to a strip of land at the southwestern tip of Colorado.

This same year, the first electric lights were turned on in Denver.

1885

The first electric street car system was set up in Colorado, at Denver.

1890

The cornerstone for the State Capitol Building was laid in Denver.

1891

On March 3, the Forest Reserve Act was passed, permitting the President to close timber areas to settlers and to establish them as National Parks. The passage of this act is generally recognized as one of the truly great early steps forward in American forest management.

In April, the White River National Forest Reserve was set aside in northwestern Colorado, just one month following the establishment of Yellowstone Forest Reserve--the first such national reserve.

1892

The Denver Post, today the largest newspaper in the state, began publication.

Gold was discovered at Cripple Creek early in January by Robert Womack. By spring, prospectors flooded the area and rich new discoveries were made, adding luster to the state's economy.

1893

Since the prosperity of Colorado was dependent primarily on the production of silver, the state's economy began to wobble badly as production increased and prices decreased. Finally, by the middle of the year, the shaky situation became a panic. Banks closed, businesses failed, and the real estate bubble burst. By mid-July, the panic broke in full fury in the state, across the nation, and around the world.

This same year, women suffrage was adopted for Colorado.

1894

On August 18, the Carey Act was passed, authorizing the President to grant to each public land state a maximum of 1 million acres for

1894
(Continued)

irrigation, reclamation, settlement, and cultivation. The surplus funds accruing to the states from this program were to be used for reclaiming lands in the individual states.

1899

The first sugar beet factory in the state was established at Grand Junction, and the electric automobile appeared on the streets of Denver.

1902

On June 17, the National Reclamation Act was passed. It earmarked almost the entire amount of revenues of public land sales in 16 Western and Southwestern states to support construction and maintenance of irrigation projects in arid states.

1903

Years of labor unrest in mining camps around the state were climaxed June 6, when a dynamite explosion at Independence Station in the Cripple Creek District killed 13 non-union miners and injured several others. The state militia assumed control of the District, and all strike leaders and many of their followers were deported in railroad cars to Kansas and New Mexico.

1906

The Congress, in order to preserve the priceless relics and the ancient homes of the cliff dwellers, created Mesa Verde National Park, which included about 80 square miles.

On February 19, the Enlarged Homestead Act was passed to meet the demands of Western livestock interests. The act permitted homesteads of up to 320 acres in parts of Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, and Arizona, with at least 80 acres being cultivated. Timber and mineral lands were excepted.

President Taft officiated at the opening of the Gunnison Tunnel, which carries water from the Gunnison River under the Vernal Mesa and into the Uncompahgre Valley, where it irrigates 80,000 acres of farm land.

1910

On June 25, Congress authorized the President to withdraw public lands subject to further legislation and prohibited the creation of further reserves in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Colorado, and Wyoming.

1914

Labor unrest spread throughout the mining and coal industries. Workers demanded wage increases, working condition reforms, and recognition of their unions. Strikers built tent colonies near the mines, refusing to work or to move. Union workers battled non-union workers until finally the Governor called out the militia. This resulted in soldiers battling strikers, which, in turn, resulted in the infamous "Ludlow Massacre" on April 20, when troops attacked the Ludlow Station Colony of 900 men, women, and children. The attack, described in the press as a massacre, aroused sympathy for the strikers, and the President called out Federal troops to establish order.

1916

On December 29, Congress passed the Stock-Raising Homestead Act, which enlarged the maximum permissible homestead to 640 acres of grazing or forage land not suitable for irrigation. The act also reserved to the U.S. all minerals in stockraising homestead patents. This was an act that was of importance to the West as it permitted homesteading of grazing lands and did not require their being plowed.

1917

On January 10, death claimed the famed scout and showman, Buffalo Bill. His body was laid to rest in a grave atop Lookout Mountain.

On April 27, the state suffered from the greatest coal mine disaster in history when 121 miners lost their lives at the Hastings Mine.

1927

On February 12, eager workers holed through the Moffat Water Tunnel and five months later, on July 7, the railroad tunnel was completed. The whole project, rather than costing the estimated 7 million dollars, cost upward of 18 million, but it did open the north-western part of the state to development and eventually was the link that gave Denver a transcontinental railroad hookup.

1933

Citizens of the Fort Collins-Greeley area envisioned the Colorado-Big Thompson Project to bring Western Slope water to the Eastern Slope, where it would be used for agricultural, industrial, and domestic purposes. This year, the Colorado General Assembly authorized the formation of the Northern Colorado Water Conservation District to contract with the Federal Government for development of the project.

1934

On June 28, the Taylor Grazing Act, enacting into law a bill introduced by Representative Ed Taylor of Colorado, was passed, providing for the segregation of up to 8 million acres (later boosted to 142 million) for grazing purposes under the direction of the Interior Department. A Grazing Service was established to manage grazing districts, to conserve the land, and to help stabilize the dependent livestock industry. The General Land Office was authorized to undertake selective disposal of the public lands through classification of the unreserved lands in the states according to their proper use and the leasing of these lands for grazing purposes pending their disposition.

1937

Congress authorized the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, and actual work on the project started the following year on the first phase, the Green Mountain Dam. Today, water is pumped from Granby Reservoir--principal gathering and storage basin of the project--up 172 feet into Shadow Mountain Lake. From there, it flows into Grand Lake and through a 13-mile tunnel to the Eastern Slope, where it is distributed. Electricity to run the huge turbine pumps at the Granby Reservoir on the Western Slope is generated by power plants along the project on the Eastern Slope.

1946

The General Land Office and the Grazing Service were combined; the new agency is called Bureau of Land Management.

THE GRCWTH OF OUR NATION

The original public lands, as conveyed by the Treaty of Paris in 1783, consisted of 541,364,480 acres. Of this original land area, 236,825,600 acres were ceded by individual states.

Major acquisitions were the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, which added 529,911,680 acres; the Florida Purchase of 1819, 46,144,640 acres; the Oregon Annexation of 1846, 183,386,240 acres; and the Mexican Cession of 1848, 338,680,960 acres.

The annexation of Texas in 1845 did not add any acreage to the public lands, since the State of Texas retained the public lands of the former Republic of Texas. The United States did, however, purchase from Texas lands outside the present border of the state, adding 78,926,720 acres to the public lands.

The Gadsen Purchase of 1853 added another 18,988,800 acres, and the final significant acquisition was Alaska in 1867, which added 375,296,000 acres. (From Our Public Lands, April 1962)

BLM IN THE U.S.

The Bureau of Land Management has exclusive responsibilities for 477 million acres of Federally-owned lands, which are located primarily in the 11 Western States and Alaska.

During U.S. history, the Federal Government has, at various times, held title to about four-fifths of the Nation's gross area. Up to the present, title to approximately 1.1 billion acres had been transferred to individual citizens, businesses, and non-Federal Governmental organizations under Federal legal authority generally referred to as the "land law." Substantial portions, amounting to 287 million acres, were removed from Federal ownership under authority of the Homestead Laws. Another 329 million acres were granted to states to help support public schools, develop transportation systems, and foster general economic development. (From Statistical Appendix, 1960)

Last year, the public domain continued to fill its historic role, contributing enough timber to build a 50-foot boardwalk from New York to Los Angeles; enough oil to heat about 6 million American homes for one year, and enough forage for 12 million livestock and big game.

In addition, the public domain managed by the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior produced revenues to the U.S. Treasury of more than 371 million dollars. (From Director's 1960 Annual Report)

BLM IN COLORADO

In Colorado the Bureau of Land Management manages 8.3 million acres of public land for its "highest and best use" in the interest of the general public.

During 1961, the Denver Land Office handled \$16.5 million in revenues from 13,000 active oil and gas leases and 32,750 new applications. Of this total, more than \$3.3 million was returned to the state for support of public education.

BLM grazing land supported more than 500,000 sheep, 200,000 cattle and horses, 328,000 deer, 4,500 elk, 3,200 antelope, and 200 Bighorn sheep. Colorado ranchers paid \$178,454 in grazing fees.

Two-hundren eleven tracts of public land were sold at public auction and brought \$217,715, and 136 timber sales realized \$88,000.

Brush and pinon control programs were carried out on 8,764 acres, reseeding of grass was accomplished on 3,652 acres, reforestation and reconditioning were done on 4,145 acres damaged by fire, fence was constructed on 62.5 miles, spraying was carried out on 4,720 acres, and 184 stock water reservoirs were constructed. (Compiled from BLM at Work in Colorado, 1961)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The sources of most of the material gathered for this Calendar booklet were Richard B. Morris' Encyclopedia of American History (Harper & Brothers, 1961); Hafen and Hafen's The Colorado Story (Old West Publishing Company, copyright by Fred A. Rosenstock, 1953); and numerous public and governmental publications and documents.

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